

## Tips for Medical Offices When Starting to Use Pentacel® During the Hib Shortage\*

As the Hib shortage\* continues, your clinic may need to use Pentacel to be sure children get their Hib vaccine.

- All healthy children should be given a complete primary series but **not** the booster dose
- Children who are high risk for Hib disease should be given a booster dose of Hib vaccine, including those with sickle cell disease, HIV infection, certain immunodeficiencies, or asplenia.
- American Indian and Alaskan Native children are also at high risk for Hib disease but should be given PedvaxHIB® (Merck) for the primary and booster dose. Contact your local health department for further information and vaccine availability.

Contact your local health department for further information and VFC vaccine availability.

### Points to Consider When Using Pediarix®\* or Starting to Use Pentacel® in your Clinic

- During the Hib shortage, use Pentacel (DTaP/IPV/Hib) as follows:
  - **For healthy children: Pentacel can be used for only the first 3 doses of DTaP, IPV & Hib vaccine**
  - For high risk children: Pentacel can be used for doses 1 thru 4 of DTaP, IPV & Hib vaccine
  - When using or starting to use Pentacel, order enough of these single-antigen vaccine:
    - Single-antigen Hep B vaccine for doses at 2 months and 6 months of age
    - Single-antigen DTaP vaccine for doses at 15-18 months and 4-6 years of age
    - Single-antigen IPV vaccine for the 4<sup>th</sup> IPV dose at 4-6 years of age
- When using Pediarix (DTaP/IPV/Hep B), you will need single-antigen Hib (ActHIB®) to protect children
  - Contact your LHD (VFC stock) or pharmaceutical representatives (for private stock) to see if ActHIB will be available **before** ordering additional doses of Pediarix
- Avoid medication errors!
  - Store vaccines in their original boxes to help identify the vaccines correctly.
  - Clearly identify where vaccines will be stored. Do this by attaching labels directly to the shelves or trays where Pediarix and/or Pentacel boxes are placed. This will help to decrease mistakes.
  - Remember Pediarix and Pentacel have different presentations:
    - Pediarix comes pre-mixed and ready to administer.
    - Pentacel requires reconstitution (mixing). It comes in two separate vials: a DTaP/IPV vial and a Hib vial. You **must** mix these two together before giving. You cannot use any other diluents.
- The following schedules are examples for using Pentacel in clinics currently using Pediarix or single-antigen vaccines for Hep B, Hib, IPV, & DTaP for healthy children\* during the Hib vaccine shortage.
  - For all 2 month olds, begin using Pentacel for the first dose in the primary series. See Table 1.
  - Children initially vaccinated with single-antigen vaccines can continue the DTaP, Hib, IPV series using Pentacel. See Tables 2 and 3.
  - Infants already started on Pediarix could finish the series with Pentacel. See Tables 4 and 5.

\*For information and guidance on the use of vaccines, refer to the MDCH website at [www.michigan.gov/immunize](http://www.michigan.gov/immunize)  
 Hib Shortage Guidelines: "Updated Hib Interim Schedule"  
 Use of Pentacel vaccine: "A Quick Look at Using DTaP/IPV/Hib (Pentacel®)"  
 Use of Pediarix vaccine: "A Quick Look at Using DTaP/IPV/HepB (Pediarix®)"

## Sample Vaccination Schedules for Using Pentacel®\* for Hep B, Hib, IPV, & DTaP During the Hib Shortage\*

**Table 1. Using Pentacel\* for All Doses**

Birth	2 Months	4 Months	6 Months	12 months	4-6 years
Hep B	Hep B		Hep B		
				DTaP	DTaP
					IPV
	Pentacel*	Pentacel*	Pentacel*		

**Table 2. Using Single Antigen Vaccines for First Dose and Pentacel\* for Remainder of Doses**

Birth	2 Months	4 Months	6 Months	12 months	4-6 years
Hep B	Hep B		Hep B		
	Hib*				
	DTaP			DTaP	DTaP
	IPV				IPV
		Pentacel*	Pentacel*		

**Table 3. Using Single Antigen Vaccines for First and Second Doses and Pentacel\* for Third Dose**

Birth	2 Months	4 Months	6 Months	12 months	4-6 years
Hep B	Hep B		Hep B		
	Hib*	Hib*			
	DTaP	DTaP		DTaP	DTaP
	IPV	IPV			IPV
			Pentacel*		

**Table 4. Using Pediarix\* for First Dose and Pentacel\* for Remainder of Doses**

Birth	2 Months	4 Months	6 Months	12 months	4-6 years
Hep B			Hep B		
	Hib*			DTaP	DTaP
					IPV
		Pentacel*	Pentacel*		
	Pediarix*				

**Table 5. Using Pediarix\* for First and Second Doses and Pentacel\* for Third Dose**

Birth	2 Months	4 Months	6 Months	12 months	4-6 years
Hep B			Hep B		
	Hib*	Hib*			
				DTaP	DTaP
					IPV
			Pentacel*		
	Pediarix*	Pediarix*			

In general, ACIP recommends the same brand of DTaP be used for all doses of the series. However, different brands can be used if the provider does not know or have available the brand of DTaP used for prior doses.\*\*

\*For information and guidance on the use of vaccines refer to the MDCH website at [www.michigan.gov/immunize](http://www.michigan.gov/immunize)

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\*\* General Recommendations on Immunization: Recommendations of ACIP. MMWR 2006/vol. 55